Impending Food Crisis in the Country

1311. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is likely to face food crisis reminiscent of 1960's;

(b) whether these observations have been made by the Science Advisory Board to the Prime Minister;

(c) if so, what are the main points put forward by them in predicting such crisis;

(d) whether series of measures have been suggested as to how the food crisis is to be met;

(e) whether the existing plans for food grains production would be sufficient to meet the crisis; and

(f) if not, what are the other steps being taken in his regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) The Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister while making a perspective projection of food production, in a document entitled 'An Approach to a Perspective Plan for 2001 AD: Role of Science and Technology—Recommendations for Action' have expressed the fear that if the projected level of food production is not achieved by the turn of the Century, India is likely to face a food crisis that will be reminiscent of the 1960s.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Government is fully aware of the country's requirement of food and to meet these requirements, serveral progammes and schemes have already been initiated to push up the production to the required level.

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News Item Captioned 'West Bengal not consulted on Panchayat meet'

1312. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption 'West Bengal not consulted on Panchayat meet' which appeared in the Telegraph dated the 25th March, 1989; wherein it has been stated that Government of West Bengal was not consulted during Panchayat meet; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) We have seen the report. The news item does not fully reflect the arrangements made for the conduct of the Panchayati Raj Sammelan of the Eastern & North-Eastern States at Calcutta. In fact the Agricul ure Minister had written to the Chief Minister about the intention of the Government of India to hold the Sammelan at Calcutta and sought the State Government's cooperation to make it a success. As desired by the West Bengal Government, the Panchayati Raj Sammelan held in Calcutta from 3rd to 7th April, 1989, was hosted by the State Government. There was no misunderstanding between the State Government and the Government of India in the orgainsation of this Panchayati Raj Sammelan.

Import of Phosphoric Acid by IFFCO

1313. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of phosphoric acid imported by IFFCO during the last three years; and